

"SECOND HAND"

A comedy sketch idea by Jonathan D Steinhoff, copyright 12/7/06

Two couples are having dinner together, Marvin and Jennifer, and Harry and Mary. Marvin is the target of everyone's ridicule, including that of his wife, Jennifer, just for being the way he is. Apparently Marvin is somewhat "Monk"-like, in the sense that he is obsessive about good manners, good ethics, good hygiene, etc.

Occasionally Marvin takes out a small notepad and writes something down. This eventually arouses the curiosity of Harry and Mary, though Marvin cautions Jennifer that she mustn't tell them what he is doing. Jennifer couldn't care less about what Marvin wants, and is instead delighted to give Harry and Mary the scoop: Apparently Marvin has it in his head that someday outerspace aliens may take over his body, and if that ever does happen, he wants to be sure that they have a full set of instructions, a sort of "owner's manual". This way, even in such a circumstance his body's hygiene would be maintained, his body would continue to wear nicely pressed pants, his shoes would continue to be shined, etc.

This new manifestation of Marvin's extreme nature is too good to be true, and the enthusiasm with which they all ridicule Marvin reaches a new high. Marvin, though displeased, continues undaunted. New ideas continue to come, and Marvin continues to occasionally take out his small notepad and write things down. Harry asks the waiter for a pen and paper, and shortly he, Mary and Jennifer are having fun coming up with things for the aliens to do with their bodies. The ideas are somewhat funny, which causes the three to continually break out laughing.

A week later and the four are back in the restaurant, or so it appears – it soon becomes apparent that the bodies of all four have actually been taken over by outerspace aliens. The aliens comment on how fortunate they are to have taken over the bodies of Earthlings who were so kind as to leave instructions behind. Occasionally there is a manifestation of a few of the funny ideas the three had the week before regarding what the aliens should do with their bodies. From time to time one of them dumps their food on Marvin's head, who responds by saying, "Thank you so much, but please be careful not to get any food on my shoes." The waiter laughs at the sight of food-covered Marvin, apparently not considering it out of the ordinary for him to receive this kind of treatment from his wife and friends.

THE END